

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /042 R

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APPROVED BY CU/NEA:DONEWBERRY, DIRECTOR

CU/NEA:JTWHEELLOCK

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMCONSUL SHIRAZ

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC (DR. SMITH, JANE I.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. JANE I. SMITH)

1. IN THE SPRING OF 1976 THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE
HARVARD CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WORLD RELIGIONS, DR. JANE
I. SMITH, WILL BE VISITING VARIOUS CITIES OF THE MIDDLE
EAST HOPING TO TALK WITH PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS/VISITING
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SCHOLARS ABOUT THE CENTER'S PROGRAMS AND ABOUT TE

POSSIBILITIES OF OFFERING FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS. ANY ASSISTANCE THAT POSTS CAN OFFER IN HELPING FACILITATE CONTACTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS NAME OF POST OFFICER WHO MAY BE CONTACTED BY DR. SMITH DURING HER VISIT YOUR COUNTRY.

2. HARVARD'S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WORLD RELIGIONS IS THE COORDINATING UNIT FOR A NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY ENGAGED IN THE STUDY OF WORLD RELIGIONS. IT ENGAGES IN THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELIGION BOTH THROUGH THE TRADITIONAL METHODS OF READING AND RESEARCH AND IN THE CONVERSATION AND DIALOGUE POSSIBLE WHEN MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS LIVE AND STUDY TOGETHER.

3. FOR THE 15 YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE THE CENTER HAS DRAWN HEAVILY ON STUDENTS FROM INDIA AND THE FAR EAST, BUT HAS HAD VERY FEW PEOPLE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY ARE THEREFORE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN INFORMING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND VISITING SCHOLARS ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND HOPING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM THE ISLAMIC TRADITION. THEY HAVE A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM (TWO YEARS), A DOCTORAL PROGRAM (FOUR TO SIX YEARS) AND A PROGRAM WHEREBY THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE THE PH.D. OR ITS EQUIVALENT CAN COME TO THE CENTER TO PURSUE THEIR OWN STUDY FOR A YEAR,

LIVING AND INTERACTING WITH OTHER CENTER MEMBERS. A NUMBER OF AMERICAN STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN THE STUDY OF ISLAM AND WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM EXPOSURE TO THOSE WHO HAVE HAD CLASSICAL MUSLIM EDUCATION AND REPRESENT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ISLAMIC CULTURE.

4. DR. SMITH'S TENTATIVE ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

MARCH 1 THROUGH MAY 31 EXCLUSIVE OF DATES BELOW: CAIRO, A.R.E. (RESEARCH FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT)

MARCH 25-26: AMMAN, JORDAN

MARCH 28-APRIL 1: JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

APRIL 2-3: ANKARA, TURKEY

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MAY 5-6: DAMASCUS, SYRIA

MAY 8-10: ALEPPO, SYRIA

MAY 12-13: BAGHDAD, IRAQ

MAY 14-17: TEHRAN AND SHIRAZ, IRAN

MAY 18-19: KUWAIT

SOMETIME BETWEEN MAY 21-28: TUNIS, TUNISIA.

5. U.S.G. FUNDING IS NOT BEING SOUGHT FOR ABOVE-MENTIONED

CENTER PROGRAMS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE036021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CEANYASO:BAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0366
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760249/aaaabqtv.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: housmasa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by housmasa>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF DR. JANE I. SMITH)
TAGS: OEXC, EG, (SMITH, JANE I)
To: CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006